

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 8 are amended. Claims 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 17 were previously provisionally withdrawn from consideration. Claims 19-30 are canceled as drawn to a non-elected invention.

Reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the Application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and (c) place the Application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 2, continues to hold claims 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17 and 19-30 withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention, there being **no allowable** generic or linking claim. Applicants hereby cancel claims 19-30 as drawn to a non-elected invention. Applicants respectfully renew the assertion made in the January 23, 2004 Amendment replying to the October 29, 2003 Office Action, that claim 1 is generic, and because claims 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 17 depend either directly or indirectly therefrom, upon allowance of claim 1, those claims should be rejoined and allowed.

The Office Action on page 3, again rejects claims 1-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. JP 08-045220 A to Yoda. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Yoda teaches a floating magnetic head for a hard disk wherein the head has a slider (28) with surface receiving moving air generated by the rotation of a magneto-optical

disk (11) (Abstract). Specifically, Yoda discloses, with regard to the slider (28), that while the recording medium is at rest, a lifting force W would not be exerted on the slider (28), but a pressing force F at the load point G would be the only force exerted on the slider (28) (Fig. 2). As such, the slider (28) would thus be in contact with the recording medium at the rail surface (30) (Fig. 2). Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that this configuration would result in a large surface area of the slider (28) resting on the recording medium. As a result, it is possible that the slider and the recording medium would then stick to each other.

Claim 1 recites, among other features, a slider of a thin-film magnetic head comprising ... a medium facing surface that faces toward a rotating recording medium ... the medium facing surface has: a first part closer to the air outflow end; a second part closer to the air inflow end; and a ridge line formed by intersection of the first part and the second part, the second part being slanted against the first part; and while the recording medium is at rest, the slider main body is in contact with the surface of the recording medium at the ridge line, and the first part and the second part slant with respect to the surface of the recording medium so that the air outflow end and the air inflow end are off the recording medium.¹

Applicants respectfully submit that such a feature, an example of which is depicted in Fig. 23, has the effect, as compared with conventional sliders, that the area in which the slider main body contacts the surface of the recording medium is greatly reduced. This effect yields a substantial reduction in the frictional resistance between the slider main body and the surface of the recording medium such that separation of the slider main body from the surface of the recording medium can be performed more smoothly, lowering the possibility of damage to the recording medium and/or the thin-film magnetic head element (see

¹ Amended claim 1 is similar, but not identical, to withdrawn claim 8. An example of the "while the recording medium is at rest ..." feature of claim 1 is described in connection with the elected species at, e.g., page 43, line 14 to page 45, line 26. An example of the feature of withdrawn claim 8 is described at, e.g., page 51, line 17 to page 52, line 2.

Specification at, e.g., page 45, lines 5-26). In other words, the features recited in independent claim 1 produce substantial advantage over the embodiments taught by Yoda in that the potential for the slider and the recording medium to stick to each other is greatly reduced. Nor would such a feature have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in light of the teachings of Yoda.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-7 and 9 include all of the features recited in independent claim 1 from which they directly and indirectly depend. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-7 and 9 are also distinguishable over Yoda.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoda are respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on pages 5 and 6 reject claims 11, 13, 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoda in view of Applicants' "admitted prior art." This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The shortfalls in the application of Yoda as a reference to reject independent claim 1 are not overcome by what is alleged by the Office Action as Applicants' "admitted prior art," as described in the Description of the Related Art, contained in pages 1-13 of the Specification and the depictions in Figs. 34(A)-43. The Description of Related Art does not disclose, or suggest, a slider of a thin-film magnetic head comprising ... a medium facing surface ... the medium facing surface has: a first part closer to the air outflow end; the second part closer to the air inflow end; and a ridge line formed by intersection of the first and the second part, the second part being slanted with respect to the first part; and while the recording medium is at rest, the slider main body is in contact with the surface of the recording medium at the ridge line, and the first part and the second part slant against the surface of the recording medium so that the air outflow end and the air inflow end are off the

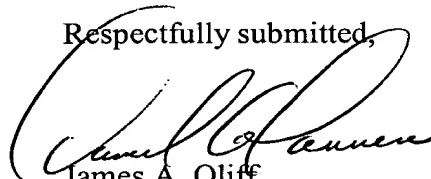
recording medium, as is recited, among other features, in independent claim 1. Thus, even if it is assumed that the described related art is prior art, combined with Yoda, it does not disclose the subject matter of the enumerated claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of the applied references therefore neither discloses or suggests the features recited in dependent claims 11, 13, 15 and 18, which depend from independent claim 1.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11, 13, 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied references are respectfully requested.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this Application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this Application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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